

follows:

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3. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the locking action of the cutting tool is provided by a strut which is pivotally joined to the guard member, the distal end of the strut being arranged to follow a loop.

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5. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 3, wherein a lug at the distal end of the strut slidably locates within a looped recess.

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8. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism is arranged such that the guard member cannot be released from said safety position unless the tool is in contact with the workplace.

9. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the blade is provided in a replaceable cartridge.

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16. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the detached end section of the blade is pressed through an opening into the containment region.

17. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the passageway is provided in a replaceable blade-cartridge.

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19. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the tool or, where the tool comprises a replaceable blade-cartridge, the blade-cartridge, is formed from a blank

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comprising three collinear elongate portions arranged to be folded together along their adjoining edges such that the passageway for receiving an elongate blade is formed between the opposed faces of two adjacent portions of the blank, and the containment region is formed between the opposed faces of one of the two adjacent portions and a face of the remaining portion.

21. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the blank is formed from a plastic material having fold lines formed by compressed regions of the blank.

22. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the opposed faces of the two portions which form the containment region are each formed with a plurality of projections for inhibiting movement of detached blade sections within the containment region.

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REMARKS

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please enter the foregoing amendments.

Claims 1-25 are now pending in the above-identified patent application, as presented by the instant Preliminary Amendment. Claims 1 and 23 are presented in independent form.